

Serial No. 09/375,045

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments to the claims made herein and the remarks provided below is respectfully requested. Claims 1-11 are pending, claim 1 has been amended and claims 12-22 have been canceled.

**CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 USC 102 and 35 USC 103**

Claims 1, 3, 5-12, 14 and 16-22 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Glasgow et al. (EP0852938A2). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 has been amended herein to recite that the claimed sanitary napkin includes:

a preferential bending zone ... said preferential bending zone including a segment crossing the longitudinal axis of the sanitary napkin, *said segment crossing the longitudinal axis obliquely in relation to said longitudinal axis*. (Emphasis Added).

Oblique is defined as follows:

oblique - 1. slanting or sloping. Webster's II New Riverside Desk Dictionary, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1988.

Thus, claim 1 recites that the segment of the preferential bending that crosses the longitudinal axis is slanted relative to the longitudinal axis. It is respectfully submitted that the Glasgow reference fails to disclose any such structure. Glasgow discloses an absorbent product including conforming means 31, 32. However, as shown in the figures, the conforming means 31, 32 are not arranged "obliquely" in relation to the longitudinal axis, that is the segment of the conforming means 31, 32 that crosses the longitudinal axis is not arranged in a slanting or sloping fashion relative to said longitudinal axis.

In view of the above it is respectfully submitted that Glasgow fails to disclosed the claimed invention according to claim 1. Claims 2-11 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and thus it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable for the reasons set forth above.

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Claims 1, 3-4, 6-7, 9-12, 14-15, 17-18, and 21-22 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by DE29703589 (hereinafter DE '589). The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended herein to recite that the claimed sanitary napkin includes: a preferential bending zone extending from one longitudinal side area to an opposite longitudinal side area, said preferential bending zone having *a first end located in said first longitudinal side area and a second end located in said opposite longitudinal side area* ... (Emphasis added).

It is respectfully submitted that DE '589 fails to disclose the structure recited in amended claim 1. The areas 7 identified in the Examiner in DE '589 do not have *a first end located in said first longitudinal side area and a second end located in said opposite longitudinal side area* in the manner of the claimed invention. Rather each end of area 7 is located within the same longitudinal side area. Accordingly it is respectfully submitted that DE '589 fails to disclose the claimed invention. Claims 2-11 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and thus it is submitted that these claims are also allowable for the reasons set forth above.

Claims 2 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Glasgow. It is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention according to amended claim 1 is patentable over Glasgow for the reasons set forth above.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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